

many of their family members work in their campaigns and are reimbursed and on their campaign payroll, but there is a list.

□ 1030

Is this what the Democrats really want? I think that the Democrats would be serving this House well if they would say to their ethics committee members, we want you to meet. We want due process for TOM DELAY or any other Member who may have a question about things.

Right now we cannot address that because they will not come to the meetings. I ask my Democrat colleagues to do the right thing, let us move on with the ethics process and take the politics out of this, because there are a lot of questions on both sides of the aisle right now, and the House is being underserved by this committee.

#### WEAKENED ETHICS RULES

(Mr. TIERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, in partial response to my colleague's last statements, it is *The Wall Street Journal* that says, it is the odor. It is the *Rocky Mountain News* that says it is hypocrisy. The *Christian Science Monitor* calls it hubris, and the *New York Times* says it is autocratic behavior, and the *San Diego Union Tribune* simply calls it disgraceful.

It turns out that there are a lot of different ways to describe the House Republicans' ethical challenges. When the Republicans took over Congress in 1994, they promised to usher in a new era of politics. For years they had tried to make the case that Democrats were corrupt, and in a new Republican era they promised to clean house and change the rules to make Congress more accountable to the people that we represent.

Well, they changed the rules. This year they changed the rules to prevent the ethics committee from doing its job, and they tried and tried and unfortunately failed to change the rules of their own caucus to allow indicted Members to retain their leadership offices.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to reinstate the ethics rules in this House. It is time that Republicans join the Democrats in supporting the Mollohan resolution, so that people can get a fair hearing, but it is done within a body that is operating properly.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### RAY CHARLES POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 504) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4960 West Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, as the "Ray Charles Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 504

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. RAY CHARLES POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4960 West Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, shall be known and designated as the "Ray Charles Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Ray Charles Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 504.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise in support of H.R. 504. This legislation designates this post office in Los Angeles as the Ray Charles Post Office Building to celebrate the life of the great American entertainer.

All 53 members of the California congressional delegation have cosponsored this legislation to comply with the committee policy on post office-naming bills.

Mr. Speaker, Ray Charles Robinson was born in Albany, Georgia, in 1930. He was raised in Florida, and completely lost his sight by age 7. Amazingly, he overcame his lack of sight and began to study piano, saxophone, and clarinet at a school for the blind and deaf.

He ultimately became a traveling musician and shortened his name to Ray Charles to differentiate himself from the famous boxer of that time, Ray Robinson. During his career that spanned more than 5 decades, Ray Charles won an outstanding 12

Grammy Awards, including the best R&B recording three consecutive years from 1961 through 1963: "Hit the Road Jack," "I Can't Stop Loving You," and "Busted." He was unquestionably one of the world's most successful musicians of the 20th century.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for all of us to understand how groundbreaking his music fusion of gospel, blues, pop, country, and jazz really was.

His ingenuity paved the way for other giants in music history, including Aretha Franklin and Elvis Presley. Ray Charles passed away in Beverly Hills, California, on June 10, 2004. This post office will serve as an important memorial to Ray Charles's legacy and influence on American popular music.

I want to thank the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON), my colleague on the committee, for her work on H.R. 504.

Mr. Speaker. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she might consume to the gentlewoman from California, (Ms. WATSON) who is the author of this legislation.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 504, a bill to rename a post office located in Los Angeles, California, the Ray Charles Post Office, is a small act to commemorate one of the true giants of the 20th century in popular music.

Ray Charles is both a national treasure and an international phenomenon. He was also a long-time resident of Los Angeles and the 33rd Congressional District, living right around the corner from me.

The story of Ray Charles's life is full of paradoxes. It is about rags to riches, the sacred and the profane, and triumph overcoming tragedy. It is the material of Horatio Alger and Mark Twain. It is a uniquely American story; and his music, a melting pot blend of pop, country, gospel, blues and jazz, brilliantly reflects the rich American cultural and musical tapestry in its various shades, shapes, and premonitions.

Much has been written about Ray Charles's life, and his rise from poverty and obscurity in St. Augustine, Florida, to his decision to migrate to Seattle, a decision he made by asking a friend to find him the farthest point from Florida on a map of the Continental United States.

Many of you have probably seen the movie "Ray," and the Oscar-winning performance of Jamie Foxx. What we learned from the life of Ray Charles is that he constantly persevered in the face of adversity and often overwhelming odds. He learned very early that the two constants of life are change and adaptation. Those qualities are reflected in spades in his music.

He secularized gospel music, wed it to jazz rhythms and sensibilities, and popularized, almost singlehandedly, music known as rhythm and blues.

But the music of Ray Charles, as true to his legacy, cannot be confined to one